9/27/73

Dear Harold,

I can't apologize enough for my shameful neglect in writing you, or sending any word for so long. I have been busy, but that really doesn't justify such thoughlessness, and it doesn't make me feel any better when I have hurt those who care about me and about who I care as well.

My trip to Jamaica lasted 2 weeks, and was far better than even my most exotic dreams. It is a beautiful, friendly and warm place (outside the cities) and it was quite difficult for me to come back. A lot of readjustment was required. Fortunately, when I returned to my Pine St house, things were so chaotic and busy that it allowed me to get re-settled without becoming depressed. It took us a good week to get things into near order (people moving in and out, painting, furniture moving, etc.) In the meantime, classes started and that inevitably meant a whole new slew of responsibilities and priorities. I still have a great work-load, and now I'll be involved in writing my thesis and applying to law schools. I'm just settling into a routine now, and until this time my life was unusually disorganized and I simply was not finding time for too many things. (Until a few days ago, I had accumulated 3 weeks of papers to clip). So, if I cannot undo the concern I caused you, perhaps I can help you understand the rush and the chaos of the weeks since I returned from Jamaica, which explain if they do not condone my neglect.

I have some encouraging news on my book, although I'm not letting myself become optimistic. The book was at A.S. Barnes for 4 months, long after 24 other publishers rejected it. I finally got a letter stating that they had read it (they were intially very skeptical) and decided to find an "expert" reader to read it for them, but so far couldn't find anyone to accept. I told them to keep looking, for I have no other possibilities right now. They just wrote me and said they found a reader, and they'd like to see any previous readers reports of comments, which I have and which I'm sending. These should help--they are from Tink and Sylvia and both strongly recommend publication. I am encouraged that Barnes was interested enough to go to the trouble of getting a reader, but I am not optimistic that the final decision will be in my favor.

With your approval, one of my courses this year might provide me with an added reason for visiting you and Lil during this semester. As you know, I promised to come, anyway--but frankly not without some concern at missing schoolwork. One of my courses concerns environmental geography and ecology. Each student is required to write a paper or make an oral report, preferably on a subject not covered in class. One such subject is noise pollution. I figured you must have a great amount of research materials, both standard and personal, and if you don't object to my drawing upon both, I would welcome the opportunity to. So, I can consider my trip a part of my research and still read what you have written on WG. How is that with you?

Under separate cover I'm sending an EPA report on Noise which was sent to me by mistake--I had asked them to send it to you. When I get the details on the law school recommendation, I'll write you about it

I haven't gone over your letters as I write this, for time, but I recall a note about NYT arrangements. Unfortunately, I can no longer buy 2 copies a day as I could over the summer, so except for certain occasions where I might buy 2, I probably won't be able to send clippings as I did this summer.

Must run. Hope everything is OK with you and Lil--and I promise I'll be in touch more often.

Best,
Howard